REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of November 20, 2007 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the sequentially read full lines of the dither matrix are output to a buffer memory. Support for this amendment can be found at paragraphs [3698]-[3750] of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-5 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-5 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Surbrook (US 5,166,809) either taken alone or in view of Matsuba et al. (US 5,815,286), for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 1 clarifies that a full line of the dither matrix is output to a buffer memory, before the next full line of the dither matrix is read. In this way, read accesses to the dither matrix can be optimised, and the ability to read lines from the dither matrix whilst outputting previously output lines is made possible (see paragraphs [3698]-[3750] of the present specification).
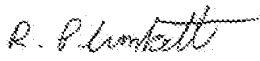
On the other hand, Surbrook is specifically directed to reading individual dither matrix values so as to optimise reading for display screen rotation. Accordingly, even in embodiments of Surbrook where dither values are read row-wise from the dither matrix the values are read one-by-one (see col. 4, line 14-col. 5, line 36), not on a full row basis as is required by the claimed invention.

Further, Matsuba does not provide any disclosure which would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Surbrook to read full rows of the dither matrix at a time, based on the specific teachings of Matsuba.
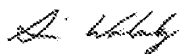
It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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